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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Andreas Witzel, et al.

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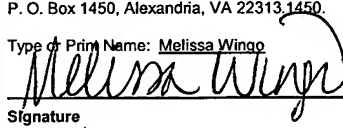
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For: OPERATING OF A SWITCHING NODE IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK
COMPRISING BOTH A LAYERED AND A NON-LAYERED ARCHITECTURAL
ENVIRONMENT

Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
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Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows prior to the substantive examination thereof:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 12 of this paper.